



# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

## An Important Announcement

*To the subscribers of the American Bee Journal:—*

Believing that the old American Bee Journal should occupy a wider field, and thus be a help to a larger number of readers, we have decided to issue it *monthly*, beginning with July (next month), instead of weekly, and at 25 cents a year. This very low price will permit every bee-keeper everywhere to subscribe for it, even if he or she has only one colony of bees. Yes, and any one who is at all interested in bees as a Nature study will, no doubt, be glad to read it regularly.

For 26½ years the American Bee Journal has been issued every week, but it has been found that there are only about so many bee-keepers who are sufficiently interested in bees to think that they need a *weekly* bee-paper. What we want is a larger constituency, hence we believe that by publishing the American Bee Journal once a month, and making the subscription price 25 cents a year, we will be able to reach the goal of our ambition sooner, and at the same time do a better service to all. (The yearly price to Canada will be 35 cents; to England and other foreign countries in the Postal Union, 50 cents a year.)

We believe that after a few months at least 99 percent of our present list of readers will see that we have done wisely in making the change mentioned.

We are not quite ready to announce more of our plans just now, but will do so in the July number and in those immediately following it. We trust we may have the continued co-operation of all our old friends, and, of course, we expect very soon to enlist that of many thousands of new ones all over the world.

We may say that the monthly American Bee Journal will contain at least 32 pages each issue. The weekly number was supposed to contain 16 pages, so that under the new plan there will be half the quantity of reading matter at only one-fourth the former cost.

The July number will be issued about the 15th of the month; then thereafter we expect to mail it on the 10th of each month. The advertising forms will close on the 5th.

Of course, all who have paid their subscriptions in advance at the regular \$1.00 rate (or the extra foreign rate) will be credited just four times as far ahead as their present address-label indicates. Those who are in arrears will pay at the rate of \$1.00 a year up to the end of this month.

In the next issue we will be able to make further announcement. In the meantime let us all hope that bee-keepers may harvest a good crop of honey, and that although the prospects may have been discouraging, the silver lining of the clouds may be revealed and all be prosperous and happy.

GEORGE W. YORK & CO.

Chicago, Ill., 118 W. Jackson Blvd.

# American Bee Journal



PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

**GEORGE W. YORK & COMPANY**  
118 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES.

THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE of this Journal is \$1.00 a year in the United States of America and Mexico; all other countries in the Postal Union, 50 cents a year extra for postage. Sample copy free.

THE WRAPPER-LABEL DATE indicates the end of the month to which your subscription is paid. For instance, "dec/07" on your label shows that it is paid to the end of December, 1907.

SUBSCRIPTION RECEIPTS.—We do not send a receipt for money sent us to pay subscription, but change the date on your wrapper-label, which shows that the money has been received and credited.

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Reading Notices, 25 cents, count line, subject to the above discounts.

Goes to press Monday morning.

## National Bee-Keepers' Association

Objects of the Association.

- 1st.—To promote the interests of its members.
- 2d.—To protect and defend its members in their lawful rights.
- 3d.—To enforce laws against the adulteration of honey.

Annual Membership Dues, \$1.00.

General Manager and Treasurer—  
N. E. FRANCE, Platteville, Wis.

If more convenient, Dues may be sent to the publishers of the American Bee Journal.

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are just the thing.  
We send them by Return Mail



As most of our readers know, we have got tenout a Souvenir Postal Card for bee-keepers. The cuts herewith shew the card in reduced size, and but one color, while the real card is printed in 4 colors. It could also be sent to honey-customers, to remind them that it is time to buy more honey, etc. There are many uses to which this Card can be put.

Prices—postpaid: 3 cards for 10c (stamps or silver), or 5 FREE with the American Bee Journal one year at \$1.00; 10 for 25c. There is a blank space on the card about 2x2 1/4 inches in size for writing. Send all orders to

**GEORGE W. YORK & CO.**  
118 W. Jackson Blvd., CHICAGO, ILL.

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AND SAVE MONEY

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Mention Bee Journal when writing.

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Prices in May and June: Caucasian—one extra best select breeding Queen, \$3.00; one best imported direct from Caucasus, \$4.50. Golden all-over Italians and Carniolans: One best extra select breeding, \$2.00; one best imported, best Italian or Carniolan Queen, \$2.50. Cyprian: one extra best select breeding, \$2.50; one best imported direct from Cyprus, \$3.50. Prices in July, August and September, 50 cents less than in May and June. Special prices for 50 and 100 Queens. Caucasian, Italian, Cyprian, and Carniolan Queens bred the best imported breeding Queens. The addresses must be clear: payments by postal money orders. Queens guaranteed to arrive in good condition in U. S. or Canada. To Australia, Ceylon, India, etc., \$1 more.

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3-frame Nuclei of fine Italian bees with Tested Italian Queens, at \$3.25 each; or in lots of 5 or more Nuclei, at \$3.00 each. Nuclei will be shipped by express (charges not prepaid), from a point 100 miles west of Chicago. Orders will be shipped in rotation—first come first served. Address,

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# American Bee Journal

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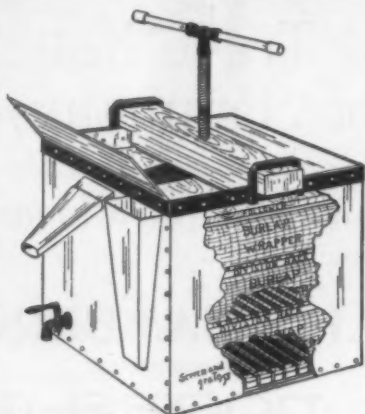
Any bee-keeper can save money, as long as the goods last, on almost any supplies needed next season, by taking advantage of our

## Fire Sale of Bee and Poultry Supplies

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Our specialty is making Sections. All other goods up-to-date.

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10A34t Please mention the Bee Journal.

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Please mention Bee Journal when writing advertisers.

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Established 1889

## Where the Little Things Count

By the Bee-Crank



**T**HE BEE-MAN has before him a constant reminder of the importance of little things. If the bee ignored the tiny drops of honey in the blossoms, and collected it only when it came in chunks, there would be no honey in the combs. If I gave preference to the large orders and neglected the small, I

should soon find a falling off on my hands, that, in the aggregate, would mean a big loss.

It is because I realize this and take the same pains to please the small customer that I do with the large, that my business keeps growing.

I want your small orders. I will take good care of them. You will get as good service from me on small as on large orders, but I promise you good, prompt delivery on either.

I sell Root's goods at Root's prices, and save you time and money on shipments.

Beeswax bought, and the highest market price paid. Send large shipments by freight, and small by express, and put your name on package.

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**Walter S. Pouder** 513-515 Massachusetts Avenue  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

# American Bee Journal

## Trade Notes The A. I. Root Company, Medina, Ohio

**Does It Pay a Planing Mill Man to Make His Own Hives?**  
An unsolicited statement of the matter from an Illinois bee-keeper:

**ELIAS BAMBERGER**

Manufacturer of

**SASH, DOORS, BLINDS**

Contractors' and Builders' Supplies  
Including All Kinds of Window Glass  
**Cor. Exchange and Adams Sts.**

ESTIMATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

Freeport, Ill., June 11, 1907.

The A. I. Root Co.,  
Medina, O.  
Gentlemen:

I received five of your AE52S-10 hives yesterday and find that I cannot make my own hives and supplies as cheap as yours and use the same quality of lumber. You can see by the head of this letter that if anyone can make hives cheaper than your prices or any of the so-called "trust hive" manufacturers, I ought to be able to do it, but using the same quality of lumber I cannot.

Yours very truly,  
(Signed) John H. Bamberger.

The above is a representative letter from the many we have to the effect that our hives and other supplies can be purchased cheaper than a local mill can possibly make them. Our enormous output enables us to reduce the cost to the minimum without sacrificing quality.

### Write Nearest Branch or Agent for Catalog.

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\*Wetumpka.....J. M. Jenkins  
**Canada**  
Toronto.....E. Grainger & Co.  
**California**  
\*Fresno.....Madary Planing Mill  
\*Los Angeles.....California National  
Honey-Producers' Association  
**Colorado**  
Denver.....The L. A. Watkins Mds. Co.  
Fruita.....Fruita Fruit and Produce Ass'n  
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Washington.....The A. I. Root Co.  
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Savannah.....Howkins & Rush  
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Augusta.....Carl F. Buck

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Brazelia.....George A. Hammer  
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Mechanic Falls.....The A. I. Root Co.  
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Baltimore.....Rawlins Implement Co.  
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Carlsbad.....Edward Scoggin  
**New York**  
Syracuse.....The A. I. Root Co.  
New York City.....The A. I. Root Co.  
44 Vesey Street.

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Toledo.....Griggs Bros., 521 Monroe St.  
Zanesville.....E. W. Pierce  
Cincinnati.....C. H. W. Weber  
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Portland.....Portland Seed Co.  
**Pennsylvania**  
Da Bois.....Prothero & Arnold  
Philadelphia.....The A. I. Root Co.  
10 Vine Street  
Williamsport.....E. E. Pressler  
633 Lycoming Street  
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Dallas.....Texas Seed and Floral Co.  
San Antonio.....Udo Toepperwein  
Uvalde.....D. M. Edwards  
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Ogden.....The Superior Honey Co.  
**Virginia**  
Spottswood.....W. E. Tribbett

\* These dealers buy our goods in carload lots but supplement them with local-made goods.

**THE A. I. ROOT CO., Medina, Ohio**





(Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.)

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GEORGE W. YORK, Editor

CHICAGO, ILL., JUNE 27, 1907

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### Bees Building Up in Spite of Weather

The following was written June 11, at Marengo, Ill.:

MR. EDITOR:—On page 430 is a note from me, written May 16, in which I mentioned the deplorable weather, and said, "No matter how good the season, it will hardly be possible for colonies to build up in time to do good work on clover." Well, I didn't know as much as I thought I did. At that date I had not opened a hive for a number of days, but I thought I knew enough about bees on general principles to know that when the weather was so cold right along that seldom a bee could leave the hive, increase would be very slow if it did not cease altogether. But when I opened the hives a few days later I was agreeably surprised to find that to all appearance matters had been progressing just as if the bees had been hard at work on the flowers every day. So my humble apologies are hereby tendered the bees for underestimating their ability to withstand adversity.

Surprise No. 2 came when I found at this later opening that some colonies were about destitute of honey, although they had gone into winter quarters heavy—very heavy—and I had counted them safe till clover. Assuredly they would have starved before that time if I had not come to their assistance with solid combs of honey, of which I had a good store.

C. C. MILLER.

The moral of all this is that bees will build up under quite adverse conditions, if they have an abundant amount of stores in sight. Something like this seems to be the case: Take 2 colonies of equal strength in early spring, the first with enough stores to last, if economically used, till clover bloom, and the second with 10 pounds more honey than the first. At the opening of the clover harvest, the one may be found just as much reduced in stores as the other. But while alike in the amount of stores, they are greatly different in strength. The one has turned its extra 10 pounds of honey into bees, while the other has seemed to feel it could not indulge in

such expansion. Of course, the figures in this supposed case may never occur in actual practise, but the principle illustrated is not easy to dispute.

### The Isle of Wight Bee-Disease

The following note has been received at this office, dated at Chicago, on June 10:

EDITOR AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL:—I enclose a cutting from a recent issue of the London Daily Mail, describing a peculiar disease which has attacked bees in Great Britain, as perhaps you may not have seen it; and I should be glad to know if you have had any experience with any such disease and can account for it.

THOMAS ERSKINE,  
British Vice-Consul.

The clipping is in part as follows:

The ravages of the bee-disease in the Isle of Wight are much worse than at first reported, for among over 30 bee-keepers in different parts of the island, which a special correspondent of the Daily Mail has interviewed, he finds that 3 years ago they had an average aggregate of 326 colonies, which are now reduced to 29, while 14 of these are more or less affected and are not expected to survive many weeks. In 15 cases the bee-keepers have lost all their bees, and the array of empty hives tells its own melancholy tale.

The symptoms are that the bees in hundreds—and where several colonies are kept in thousands—are found on a warm summer day crawling upon the ground unable to fly. When examined and dissected the intestine is full of a bright yellow pollen, moist and sticky. When the diseased bees sting, some of this yellow matter is deposited with the sting, and after the swelling has subsided the flesh is stained yellow, as in yellow jaundice; but in the case of a healthy bee the sting is white, and the effect on the flesh is red.

The article goes on to say that the suggestions of the Board of Agriculture, "such as requeening, disinfecting, spraying and feeding, have already been tried without any

beneficial effect," and then gives, as the best treatment, the treatment for foul brood with the addition of feeding salicylic acid and boracic acid for two weeks.

Considerable has been said in the British bee-papers about the matter, and at least one continental bee-paper has called the disease bee-paralysis.

The case is no doubt bad enough, although the newspaper account, as in most newspaper accounts when bees are under discussion, may not be entirely reliable. It is hard to believe that a bee with life enough to sting would deposit "yellow matter" with the sting, and a bee-keeper is somewhat puzzled to be told that "in the case of a healthy bee the sting is white." After reading that, he is likely to have some question as to the rest that may be said.

However serious the case may have been, no further loss can occur, since only 29 colonies are left on the island, and one would think that the surest way out would be to destroy the 29 and begin again with a clean bill of health. Little interest has been manifested in the matter on this side, partly because so far away, and partly because of the limited extent of the disease, the Isle of Wight being less than a third as large as an average county in Illinois. Yet if it should turn out to be a new disease, more terrible than any other yet known, it is well that we should be informed about it in advance, for bee-diseases have an insidious way of invading quite distant territory, no matter how small the area originally affected.

### Does the Queen Consciously Fertilize Eggs?

As a contribution to this unsettled problem the following Stray Straw is given in Gleanings in Bee-Culture, page 754:

I don't know whether worker-eggs are fertilized by the will of the queen or automatically. But I want to enter a protest against what is generally considered as a knock-down argument against the automatic theory. It's given something like this:

"The claim that the smaller size of the worker-cell compresses the abdomen of the queen, automatically fertilizing the eggs, is shown to be groundless by the fact that, when a queen lays eggs in worker-cells not more than  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch deep, there can be no com-

# American Bee Journal

pression, and yet the eggs are fertilized."

Good friend, you must know that there is no real squeezing of the abdomen, either in a worker-cell or a drone-cell. The worker-cell is a trifle shallower than the drone-cell. May not that difference in depth cause such a difference in the position of the queen as to produce fertilization in the shallower cells? And would not fertilization be expected in a still shallower cell? Did you ever know drone-eggs to be laid in drone-cells only  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch deep? I don't think I ever saw such a case; but I may not have observed closely enough.

One who has watched the queen at work laying eggs can not fail to have noticed that while the egg is being deposited the abdomen is curved to no small degree, and it is easy to believe that this curving is greater in a worker than in a drone-cell, and still greater in a cell only partially built out. It certainly looks like scoring one for the compression theory.

Botanists classify plants in their relation to fertilization into two classes, viz.: Those fertilized by the wind and those fertilized by insects.

In many varieties of plants and trees the stamens that bear the pollen, or male element, are on one plant or flower, and the pistils that grow the ovules—the female element—on another. If it were not for the fact that insects—chiefly bees—carried the pollen from one flower to the stigma of another, there would be no seeds or fruit grown. The pollen-grains are so constructed as to adhere to the insect that visits them, and then be carried from flower to flower.

In the large green-houses near our large cities where early cucumbers, etc., are grown for the market, it is always necessary to have one or two colonies of bees inside to fertilize the blossoms. No bees, no cucumbers, unless men go around with a brush and dust the pollen from one flower to another, which is very laborious and expensive work.

Those who grow flowers doubtless have observed that the fuchsia and begonia never produce seed in a closed room; yet when set out-of-doors where bees can get at them they seed abundantly.

All kinds of fruit are greatly benefitted by bees, and a large proportion of our fruit, such as apple, pear, and particularly the plum, would be barren were it not for the honey-bee; therefore, the intelligent fruit-grower, farmer or gardener, is always glad to have a bee-keeper locate in his immediate vicinity, for he always derives very much more benefit from the bees than the bee-keeper himself. In fact, profits from keeping bees are so uncertain that it is very rare indeed that a bee-keeper tries to make a living from it.

Lastly, I will inform Messrs. Lasher and Petsil, as well as all others interested, that the National Bee-Keepers' Association will back all of its members. Any number of legal decisions have been handed down to prove that bees are not a nuisance *per se*; that when they are properly kept, and due precautions used, as on my isolated place, that they can not be driven out of the town. There are several precedents from various courts, even from a State Supreme Court, to show that bees have a right to be kept, even within a corporation like any other stock, and any village ordinance not in conformity with these decisions is unconstitutional; and that several ordinances declaring bees to be a nuisance have been repealed. This, probably, is the reason why Amasa P. Lasher could not get the State Board of Health to take action in the matter, and explains why his paper of complaint was returned to the Germantown officials; but as the matter is to come up at the next meeting of the Germantown Board of Health, it remains to be seen what they will do.

F. D. CLUM, M. D.

The six paragraphs following the heading, "Value of Bees to Horticulture," contain just the kind of information that should be republished far and wide in local newspapers. No doubt almost any of our readers could have his local editor use it if he requested him to do so, and if, at the same time, he were given a copy of it.

It is just as Dr. Clum says, ignorance is at the bottom—and also at the top—of nearly every complaint against bees. Most people do not know the value of bees to fruit-growing else they surely would not oppose the presence of bees.

It will take quite a long time to inform all the people who need to be taught concerning bees and their great importance, but bee-keepers should do all in their power to see to it that, so far as possible, apicultural knowledge shall "cover the earth as the waters cover the sea." Let us all do what we can to hasten the coming of the brighter bee-



**Claim Bees are a Nuisance.**—F. D. Clum, of Cheviot, N. Y., is one of the many "M. D.'s" that are interested in bee-keeping. Recently he wrote us as follows:

EDITOR AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL:—I notice in the American Bee Journal of May 23d, that a subscriber living in a small town in Wisconsin complains about a troublesome neighbor who claims that honey-bees are a nuisance. The subscriber wants to know "What to do with such a man?" The great remedy is education. You notice by the enclosed that we also have troublesome neighbors in New York State, and my reply to their complaint. After the complainants became convinced of the value and the importance of bees, and that they are just as necessary to the farmer, the gardener and the fruit-grower as to the bee-keeper himself, the opposition promptly ceased, and the complainants felt heartily ashamed of their previous ignorance. If other bee-keepers would publish similar communications in their local newspapers, I think it would greatly benefit all parties concerned. F. D. CLUM, M. D.

The newspaper article referred to reads as follows:

## COMPLAINT AGAINST A BEE-KEEPER.

A complaint composed and written by Amasa P. Lasher, and signed by John Petsil, was recently presented to the Germantown health officer, "protesting against the continuance of a colony of bees located on the premises of Dr. F. D. Clum, in Cheviot."

Why should the gentle Italian bees, which every one knows never sting unless molested, be complained of when the 10 to 20 colonies of the stinging black bees owned for the last 20 years by Charles Rockefeller (who is just as near a neighbor to Messrs. Lasher and Petsil as is Dr. Clum) have not caused a single complaint in times past? Moreover, there are, all told, about 100 bee keepers in the town of Germantown who own colonies of bees, varying in number from 1 to 135. Why have none of these been complained of?

Taking these facts into consideration, it looks as if the complaint were made for the purpose of making trouble for Dr. Clum, or as a matter of revenge or spite.

Any fruit-grower who will, year after year, kill and eat robins and other birds in violation of the law because they destroy a few cherries, is probably so ignorant that he does not know or appreciate their value on his fruit-farm as destroyers of various injurious insects and worms. It is not expected that such a person has sufficient intelligence to know the value and necessity of bees on his fruit-farm; but Amasa P. Lasher has spent the greater part of his life teaching school,

and for that reason is supposed to have a least average intelligence. Now can it be possible that he does not know that bees are a necessary insect for the fruit-grower? That as they live over winter, in the early spring they fertilize the fruit-blossoms when there is no other insect to do the work? He, as an instructor of the young, should know that bees are as necessary to plants as plants are to bees.

In the complaint, composed and written by Amasa P. Lasher against the bees on Dr. Clum's place, appears the following statement:

"Complainant further alleges and believes that the bees have a destructive power that robs the fruit-grower of the legitimate profits that should accrue from his exhaustive labors by destroying a large percentage of the small fruit."

The above statement is so directly antagonistic to the true facts that I would not believe that Amasa P. Lasher had written it until I saw it in his own handwriting. Can it be possible that a man who has taught the Cheviot school the greater part of his life does not know better? If he does not, it is my opinion that the school needs a more enlightened teacher.

It is like thrashing old straw to state that bees never touch perfectly sound fruit. Their physical make-up renders it impossible for them to do so; but if fruit is crushed or injured and the juice exudes, the bees gather to collect what could otherwise go to waste.

Messrs. Lasher and Petsil own vineyards, and for their information I will state that if they care to investigate the matter they will find that the English sparrow is most destructive of grapes, and in the city of New York have been seen to tear open packages to eat the grapes within. There is also a small, swift-flying, shy bird, called the Cape May warbler, which appears about every vineyard. It comes early in the morning, just at the break of day, and for that reason is seldom caught in the act. It has a long, sharp, needle-like beak, and after alighting on a bunch of grapes it will puncture grape after grape as fast as one can count. The bee that follows later to collect the sweet juice that exudes and goes to waste gets the blame for puncturing the grape.

Perhaps it is well to republish the following extracts from one of my communications to the Register of May 1, as follows:

## VALUE OF BEES TO HORTICULTURE.

The fruit-grower, gardener or farmer who does not realize and appreciate the great benefit he derives from honey-bees in the great work of cross-pollination, which is imperatively necessary to his success, does not fully understand his business.



keeping day when all the world shall know the truth about bees and honey, which truth shall make them free—from ignorance, and prejudice, as well.

**A Section-Size Correction.**—We have received the following from Mr. Wm. M. Whitney, of Lake Geneva, Wis., under date of June 17:

MR. EDITOR:—In the report of the Chicago-Northwestern Bee-Keepers' convention, on page 521, I am made to say that I have sections  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ , which is far from correct. Such a section as that, if properly completed, would weigh at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. It so blunts the point intended to be made as to make a bad blotch. The section is  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ —7 to the foot—a little narrower than the  $4 \times 5$  plain, but taller and thicker, weighing, when nicely capped, just 16 ounces—have weighed dozens of them. The double supers, as I call them, with section-holders and fence, hold 48 sections each, which is put on a strong colony in time of good honey-flow, and often duplicated. Bees work in them better than in the  $4\frac{1}{4}$  section. I don't know why.

My hives are overflowing with bees, but I'm feeding, anxiously looking for white clover.

WM. M. WHITNEY.

**Analysis of Pollen.**—Having on page 429 reported an unsuccessful search for an analysis of pollen, Mr. W. K. Morrison kindly comes to our aid with the following:

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Albumen—7 percent. |              |
| 2. Peptic acid        | } 5 percent. |
| 3. Grape sugar        |              |
| 4. Butyric acid       |              |
| 5. Myricene           | } 5 percent. |
| 6. Palmitic acid      |              |
| 7. Stearic acid       |              |
| 8. Oleic acid         |              |
| 9. Glycoloxyd.        |              |
| 10. Anthosmitin.      |              |
| 11. Hyppuric acid.    |              |
| 12. Cerithin.         |              |
| 13. Pollenin.         |              |
| 14. Cellulose.        |              |
| 15. Eritholin.        |              |

**Honey as a Health-Food.**—This is a 16-page honey-pamphlet intended to help increase the demand for honey. The first part of it contains a short article on "Honey as Food," written by Dr. C. C. Miller. It tells where to keep honey, how to liquefy it, etc. The last part is devoted to "Honey-Cooking Recipes" and "Remedies Using Honey." It should be widely circulated by those selling honey. The more the people are educated on the value and uses of honey, the more honey they will buy.

Prices, prepaid—Sample copy for a 2-cent stamp; 50 copies for 70 cents; 100 for \$1.25; 250 for \$2.25; 500 for \$4.00; or 1000 for \$7.50. Your business card printed free at the bottom of front page on all orders for 100 or more copies. Send all orders to the office of the American Bee Journal.

**"Songs of Beedom."**—This is a beautiful 16-page-and-cover pamphlet, 6x9 inches in size, containing 10 bee-songs—words and music—all the songs so far written specially for bee-keepers, we believe. It is nice, as well as convenient, to have these songs all in one binding. Every bee-keepers' organization should have copies for use at conventions. They could be sold to members after using once, or held by the secretary for use at future meetings. Of course, every bee-keeper's family will want at least one copy. It is sent, postpaid, for only 25 cents, or 3 copies for 60 cents; or, we will mail one copy with the American Bee Journal one year—both for \$1.10. Send all orders to the office of the American Bee Journal.



## No. 5.—Comb-Building and Obtaining Surplus Honey Cheaply

BY R. C. AIKIN

In the previous article I discussed nuclei and how to make them. Still further back in these articles—in Nos. 2 and 3—I mentioned the making and use of nuclei. I also have made reference to specialty in the use of bees; that is, running part for honey and part for colonies for next year, and now I want to speak of another special use of certain kinds of colonies, and that is—

### BUILDING OF BROOD-COMBS.

Every practical bee-keeper knows that under certain conditions much drone-comb will be built, while under certain other conditions only worker will be built. Years ago Mr. Doolittle told us how to utilize weak colonies, and specially weak ones with young queens in getting straight all worker-comb. It is a fact that a weak colony with a young queen will build almost exclusively worker-comb, and under certain conditions they will build just as pretty, straight ones as can be had from comb foundation, and do it more cheaply than by the use of it.

Here is another fact—I previously mentioned this point—a small colony just getting started with bees to cover well one to 3 combs and brood in proportion, will put up more honey (that is, gather, store and consume) than a like number of bees under other conditions. When the young are hatching fast, and there is a good proportion of nurses and comb-builders, it is astonishing how much they will build, and how well they will do it.

Suppose you have started with a 1-frame nucleus. First, put the one frame at the side of the hive, and next to this put a drone-comb, or one mostly drone. Such a colony will not use the drone-comb for anything but honey-storage, and if they begin to get crowded they will put almost every bit of the honey in the drone-cells and fill the worker-comb with brood from end to end. When the colony can use more space, move the brood from the hive side and put in a frame with a starter; this gives the hive side, which is straight, for one guide, and the face of the comb next to it, having been next to the hive side, will be as straight as a board, for it was lined by a board; there they will build as good a comb as if foundation were used.

But you may object to having them build next to the outer wall, as being too cold; in a few cases that may be a

valid objection, but you can get exactly the same results by using a dummy or follower board, putting the drone next to the hive side, and the brood-comb between it and the dummy.

As fast as the comb is built in the first frame given, it will be used by the queen, and it won't be many days until it is full, when it should be moved from the old one and a starter put between it and the old one, and also at the same time one put between the new one and the dummy; these two will be built about as quickly as the first one. And right here is the time that another drone-comb may be put on the inside next to the dummy, the presence of drone-comb will encourage the building of worker-comb. If you do not have dummies to use just let a drone-comb serve in its place; I often use a comb instead of a dummy.

We have now given the colony 3 starters, and with a young, vigorous queen you can depend upon 99/100 of the comb in them being worker, if you have followed the plan outlined. At this time, if there has been free gathering of nectar, the drone-combs should be full of honey, and now 2 more frames may be given, this time putting them as near the center as may be, and they may be put both together and between the 2 nicest, straightest sheets of brood. Note this fact: A sheet of brood to build comb next to is better than a board, every time; it is a warm place, and where the nurses are doing much business; there the fewest bees necessary to the work can build.

Note also that a sheet of brood will remain just as straight as when you find it until the brood hatches from it, or until they cease to breed in it and put honey therein. Always, in any colony, when you want to have a comb built, put the starter next to or between sheets of brood; if between store-combs, and nectar is coming freely enough to cause the combs to be promptly filled, there is always a tendency to lengthen the cells out into the space in which the new comb is to be built, until it is too narrow to build even deep enough cells to rear brood in. I have often seen full sheets of foundation made into very thin combs with a very thick one on either side, and have seen even the two adjoining combs with cells so lengthened that they cut out entirely the new comb at places. Yes, the best possible place to build new combs is between sheets of brood.

By the things pointed out in the last paragraph, you will see that conditions may make very different results; where you can get a good comb built one time you may not the next. I have indicated the plan that will meet nearly



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every possible condition, so that even the man of very limited experience may succeed, and such work is the finest kind of education for the beginner—it is a whole lot better than paying out money for foundation. As one gains experience, and his judgment is sharpened, he can vary from the rule because he will know when to do, or not to do, this or that. It would make this description very long and tedious to go into all the details to explain minutely the effect of variations in temperature, honey-flow, changing proportion of fielders to nurses, etc.

Now when the colony has built 4 or 5 new combs, you have just about reached the limit; after that the queen will begin to want drone-comb to lay in. Whenever a colony has reached the time they are about to occupy the entire 7 to 10 combs, they instinctively prepare for increase by the rearing of drones, but up to the time they have occupied about 6 combs it is worker-comb they want and will build. With old queens they will build less, and other conditions affect results, too.

### GETTING SURPLUS HONEY FROM WEAK COLONIES.

These comb-building colonies—whether from weak colonies that were late in getting started in the spring (for such can be made use of in getting comb built) or from nuclei—will sometimes store quite a little surplus, particularly if extracted honey be produced. The drone-combs used can be removed and their places filled with ready-made worker-combs. These removed drone-combs may be extracted at the time of removal, or an excluder may be put over the brood-chamber and an extra body put above, and these combs put into it and the rest of the space filled with either starters or other comb, or parts of comb of either drone or worker. The best way is to put these removed drone-combs in the center and fill out the sides. If starters be used there will of course be lots of drone-comb built, but the excluder keeps the queen from them, and nothing is lost. A lot of new drone or worker comb can be sold as chunk honey, or it may be extracted to be used over again, or may be broken fine and strained; or, what is the better way, is to melt it, and so separate the wax from the honey. Each 100 pounds of new combs melted when full of honey, will yield about \$1 worth of wax. It pays to do it.

There is no cheaper or easier way to produce extracted honey on a small scale than the above, or some modification or variation of the plan. Honey strained or melted out from these new combs is every whit the equal of that extracted by the centrifugal extractor; and if well done, that melted out is the finer product of the three methods. Honey separated from the comb by heat, when well done, can not be equaled for body and fine flavor; it is simple XXX.

The honey-producer who is getting up No. 1 and fancy comb honey for the general trade these days must be an expert, and as I have previously indicated in former articles of this series, the conditions that are required for ob-

taining the desired result, to a more or less extent, damage the future prosperity of the colony, especially for withstanding the following winter. It is better to specialize; but with some such method as indicated above one may produce extracted, and that with no particular skill as an apiarist, and get as good returns from the bees and leave them in better condition. Would-be apiarists with modern hives trying to run a machine and system they do not understand, nor have yet become even half-way bee-masters, usually soon "blow up the boiler," and thousands of us, with years of practise, do likewise.

The divisible hive—that is, what is known as the divisible shallow-frame brood-chamber hive, as the Heddon idea—is not understood by one in a thousand of our best apiarists, and has met with failure in the hands of many who have tried them. The hive is different from what we have been accustomed to, and must have its own methods to succeed. Lack of understanding and proper method has caused the failure, and not because of shallow frame and divisible brood-chamber. This reference to that hive and system here is merely to point out a fact, and not to discuss the merits of the hive

and its system. If one is beginning anew, such a hive and its system might well be adopted, but I am here trying to teach the simplest and best methods with the hive in common use.

No, no, we can not become experts from the start; it is well for us to learn some of the details of the whys for many things, as I have here indicated. When we know from both theory and practise what bees will do, and the why of it, then it is time to undertake the business as a business for profit, and in a general commercial way. I believe the man who allows his bees to swarm as they will, following their own instincts; the man who believes and advocates the let-alone plan, and hives swarms, and puts on supers, and shifts hives around a few times, as the sum of his management, is by no means an expert nor a master. Get to the internal workings, and know why this and that is done by the bees, and do not trust to their wisdom; learn that the bee is not half as wise as she gets credit for being. There is reason for the things she does; but her doing is not prompted by any process of reasoning, taking into consideration cause and effect. That is the master's part.

Loveland, Colo.



Conducted by EMMA M. WILSON, Marengo, Ill.

### Making Increase from One Colony

DEAR MISS WILSON:—I have a colony of Italian bees having a queen with clipped wings. What can I do to make increase possible from the colony? I have read a good deal about "shake swarming," taking out brood-combs, etc., but all of these methods seem to lack details in the telling that makes the operation doubtful of success for the novice.

In transferring brood-comb to another hive, what of the queen—where does the queen come in?

Would buying a queen, and introducing her to a nucleus of 2 or 3 frames of brood-comb with adhering bees, be the right way to do? or would it be better to move brood-combs with bees and queen, and allow the remaining bees to build queen-cells and hatch a new queen?

MRS. J. D. BLACK.

Albion, Ind., June 5.

You can increase with a clipped queen in any way you could if the queen were not clipped. In fact, it is easier when the queen is clipped, if you increase by natural swarming. When the colony swarms, instead of bothering to hive the swarm, perhaps climbing a tree to get it down, you pay no attention to the swarm. Just watch for the queen, and if you don't see her as she comes out of the hive you'll be likely to see her on the ground after the swarm is up in the air. Pick her up and put her in a cage. If you have

no cage you can put a tumbler over her on a plate, but be sure not to set the plate in the sun unless you want to kill the queen. Set the old-hive a yard or more away, put the new hive in its place, and then sit down comfortably and congratulate yourself that you don't have to climb for that swarm, which may be clustered away up high. Don't worry if it doesn't come back for 10 or 15 minutes; it will not fail to come back. Generally, however, it will not settle at all, but sail around in the air for a little while and then come straight to the new hive you have set on the old stand. When the bees have started into the hive, let out the queen to travel in with them—and there you are. About the easiest way to increase, if you have no objection to natural swarming. After the swarm has gone into the hive, set the old hive close beside it, and a week later move the old hive to a new place 2 yards or more away.

In transferring brood-combs to another hive, if you mean transferring from a box-hive to a movable-frame hive, you merely get all the bees from the box-hive into the new hive, and the queen will be among them, although you are not likely to see her.

You will get along faster if you buy the queen. In that case, it will be well

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to fasten the nucleus in its hive 2 or 3 days, otherwise too many bees will go back to their old home.

If, however, you prefer to let the bees rear their own queen, here's a good way to proceed: Take 2 or 3 frames of brood with adhering bees and the queen and put them into a hive on a new stand. Most of the force being left on the old stand, the strong force will produce good cells, ever so much better than a mere nucleus would. In 8 or 10 days you will let the hives swap places, taking all but 2 or 3 frames with adhering bees from the queenless hive and giving them to the queen. See that the frames left in the nucleus have one or several queen-cells, and destroy all queen-cells on the combs you give the queen.

If you have further questions, don't hesitate to call again.

### Another Fairy Bee-Story

When the manufacturer of news wants something better than common upon which to build, he can hardly do better than to tell what some man can do with bees. Upon the smallest foundation of truth he can build and build until his superstructure is 'way out of sight in the clouds. But if you want to see the veracious reporter at his best, just let him get an inkling of what some woman has done, or is going to do, with bees; as witness the following from the Chicago Daily News:

#### QUEEN-BEES AT \$200 EACH.

Two score Italian queen-bees, valued at from \$50 to \$200 each, arrived on Saturday on the steamship St. Paul. They are the property of Mrs. R. C. Riggs, of Kansas, who accompanied them.

Salerno, Italy, it seems, is headquarters for the finest variety of Italian queens, and thither Mrs. Riggs went for the express purpose of buying a number of these valuable little insects.

"The Italian queen," said Mrs. Riggs, in speaking of her purchase, "is much larger than the ordinary bee, and is of a beautiful light gold color. It is worth literally dozens of times its own weight in gold, because of its marvelous productivity. No other bee can compare with it in this respect."

Of course, having a valuable lot of merchandise in her possession—her new bees are valued at \$1800—Mrs. Riggs wanted to have them insured. The average person wouldn't know where to go or what to do to get a swarm of bees insured, but Mrs. Riggs did. An Italian company assumed the risk for the tiny creatures on their voyage to America, so that her only danger lay in the journey between New York and Kansas.

"Of the tens of thousands of people who eat honey, or see bees flitting about among the clover blooms in summer," said Mrs. Riggs, "very few know anything of the trouble entailed in rearing bees, or realize the immense capital that is invested in apiculture. During the 16 years that I have been in the business, I have expended something like \$125,000 on my apiaries. The returns, however, have been fairly large, as I market my honey in many cities."

"Bee-farming is not a business out of which the novice can expect to reap much of a harvest. People seem to think any fool can make money at bees. It isn't so. The theoretical and practical sides of apiculture must be thoroughly mastered if one is to succeed in it, and that takes many years."

"Incidentally, the bee-farmer must not be susceptible to the virus of the sting. Every one who handles bees, or is with them much,

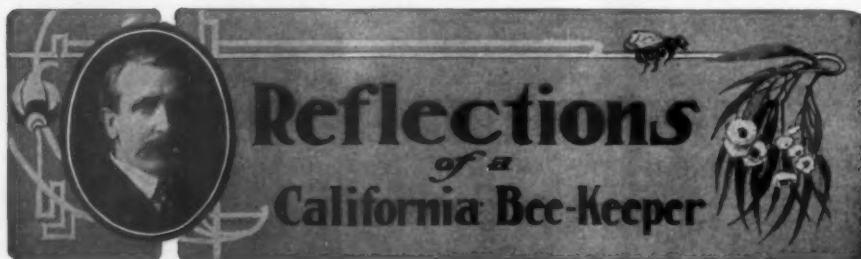
must expect necessarily to take a certain amount of stinging, and those who are constitutionally not fitted to stand it are seriously handicapped in the business."

Mrs. Riggs declares that she is absolutely immune. "And yet I have been stung hundreds of times at once," she says. "All my assistants are equally immune—in fact, I won't engage an employe permanently who is not."

One of the funny things about this whole business is that getting "stung" is supposed to be good for the "rheumatiz." Mrs. Riggs says she actually has people come to her—people who are tortured by rheumatism—who ask the privilege of placing themselves in the way of being badly stung. Of course, she is always willing to accommodate them.

"And, oddly enough," she laughed, in telling about the queer request, "I have known cases where getting stung really did relieve terrible attacks of the disease—at least, the sufferers declared it did, and they ought to know."

It would be interesting to know just how much basis there is for this remarkable story. Possibly there were 2 or 3 queens with a value of \$2 to \$5 each, and no one is likely to be more surprised than Mrs. Riggs to learn what large proportions her operations have assumed. Think of paying an average price of \$90 each for 20 Italian queens! But that is only in keeping with the general outlay during 16 years—"something like \$125,000." That averages annually \$7,812.50, and to recoup herself for such an outlay, even if she made a profit of 7 cents on each pound of honey, she would have to produce each year a little more than 100,000 pounds. Strange that we should never have heard of these large crops before. And very likely the lady will herself echo, "Strange that I should never have heard of it before!"



BY W. A. PRYAL, Alden Station, Oakland, Calif.

### Lungs—But Not of the Bee

Prof. Cook dilates upon lungs, in Gleanings of April 1st. Yes, California is a great State for lungs. But few who have real lung-trouble can expect to be cured by coming to the most favored portion of the State. Some may get relief for a time; better stay near home and get the treatment afforded by kind friends and dear relatives. Doctors tell us that any change is good for those thus afflicted for a time, but after a time when the patient becomes accustomed to the new climate, the system goes back, as it were, to where it was at the beginning of the "cure." I think the day will come when a remedy will be found to banish the lung-bacteria. And it will be one of the greatest boons given to man. And—but pardon me, I am getting away from bees, even if this subject may be excused as a reflection—not on the Professor nor on our climate—but as an observation on our breathing mechanism.

### Church Candles of Beeswax, Etc.

How oft we go wrong when we try to write about the other fellow's religion. And it is hard to be helped, inasmuch as there are so many of 'em—both the fellows and the religions. But let us try to be careful—have due regard for our neighbor's creed, race and politics.

Once upon a time I had a newspaper detail that took me to the places of worship of Jew, gentile and heathen; priest, rabbi and minister, I had to interview. But this is neither here nor there. Of course, I had to "post up"

in matters about the creeds and so forth. It has stood me in pretty good stead since. This is why I am making this reflection.

The other night in reading up on beeswax in one of the standard bee-books, I noticed a cut of a big candle under which was the title, "A Mammoth Candle for Sacramental Purposes"—a statement which is as incorrect as it is misleading. Candles may be used or lit during the administration of some of the sacraments in several of the churches, but they form no part of the service, that I am aware of. A lighted candle is used as a symbol; that and nothing more, so far as I know. Every Roman Catholic church uses one of these mammoth candles during a certain season of the year, commencing at the close of Lent. This reminds me that in a late number of Gleanings, the editor, in mentioning some of the uses to which beeswax is put, mentions that the Catholic and Greek churches use large numbers of them on the altars. This would lead the uninformed to believe that all the candles used in such churches were none other than beeswax. The law of the church calls for at least two pure beeswax candles to be lit on the altar during the offering of the mass. From this it may be seen that all others may be of any other material—sperm, tallow, etc. And the same writer further stated that wax-candles were used for the reason that they did not produce a smoke that was injurious to the ornamentation of the interior of the edifice. I do not know where the editor received his information; I know as a fact oil-lamps are used in country churches; in the city gas is the usual illuminant along with electricity



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where the latter is procurable. Gas, in time, smokes up a church badly; still, it is used universally, showing that candles are not demanded.

If one is of an investigating mind, he will find that in some churches, what appear to be candles are nothing more than porcelain made in imitation of a candle. A small gas-tip or burner is set where the wick should be. If all the Roman Catholic, Greek and some forms of the Episcopal church were to use beeswax-candles exclusively during their services, there would not be sufficient wax produced to supply the demand. And, perhaps, it is well they don't, for it would, to my mind, be a useless waste of good material—a product demanded for use in the arts and sciences. The church seemed to recognize this fact, hence the minimum limit of two candles at the sacred service.

## Durable Top-Bar Ends

In examining a lot of colonies this spring, I found that a lot of the end-bars had decayed. This made it awkward to handle frames so injured. It was almost as bad as lifting a large basket full of eggs and the basket handleless. You have a dread all the time that something is going to fall. I find that Eastern (white) pine and a Western spruce were the woods most susceptible to rot. Oregon pine stood the moisture better than I supposed. I believe redwood will not rot, but it is too brittle, though. Patrick Keating uses it. Give me Oregon pine, for it is almost as hard and durable as oak.

in sections, and I never knew of brood being injured by it.

4. With a virgin in its cell the bees seem to know that drones are of the utmost importance, and so they are anxious for drone-comb.

5. When I have put the back of my hand near the entrance it has always felt as if the current were toward my hand, and so drawn out of the hive.

## Vicious Bees—Perhaps Absconding

1. On May 20, W. R. Burden and I cut down a bee-tree and found the queen and placed her in a hive and brought them home, and on the next day the bees all came out and began stinging everything within 200 yards of the hive. They killed 2 hens in a coop 30 yards from the hive, stung people 200 or 300 yards away, and were trying to settle all the time, but did not. They settled down or went back in 3 or 4 hours and have been working some, and now have 3 pieces of comb about 6x8 inches. What was the matter with them?

2. In the spring of 1906 I had a nice swarm of bees come out. I hived them in a new hive and they worked fine. They carried in a great deal of pollen. In 7 weeks they sent out a swarm, and in 10 days, on examining I did not find a bee in that hive that sent out the last swarm. The first swarm I hived lay out around the entrance and the hive was full of nice comb. No moth-worms when I noticed it, and no bees in it. Did the bees all come out, or did they die, or what was the matter?

3. What is meant by "W. K. M." in "Stray Straws" in Gleanings?

KENTUCKY.

ANSWERS.—Evidently those bees were of a very vicious disposition, and beyond that it is hard to say why they were on such a special rampage. It is barely possible that there was some robbing going on, making them worse, but one can only guess why they should swarm out.

2. Again you've given me a nut harder than I can crack. It seems to be a case of absconding rather than swarming. As I understand it, the bees left the hive, bag and baggage, 7 weeks after they had been hived as a swarm. It is very unusual for bees to desert a hive after fairly getting to work in it, but sometimes they do. Whether too hot, or lacking in food, or what may have been the cause in this particular case, is more than I can guess.

3. "W. K. M." are the initials of W. K. Morrison, one of the assistant editors of Gleanings.

## When Bees are Gathering—Best Race of Bees—Bees Starving, Etc.

1. Is there any way one can tell when bees are gathering by the appearance when they come in from the field? My bees seem to come in heavily loaded, but there is nothing in bloom except dandelion and strawberries.

2. Do they gather much from other plants?

3. What race of bees do you think is best for the production of comb honey?

4. One of my neighbors says his bees are bringing out lots of young larvae on the alighting board. Why? Some say it is chilled brood. We have had it fearfully cold here this month.

5. Do bees that gather pollen gather honey also, or are there two classes?

6. Since writing the above today (June 2) I notice the bees are coming in so heavily loaded that they drop before they reach the alighting board. They do not seem to be on dandelion. What can it be? Is it a sign that they are gathering?

MAINE.

ANSWERS.—1. If they are seen carrying in pollen, they are generally carrying in nectar also. When the harvest is plentiful some of the bees are likely to drop down in front of the hive; apparently resting a while before starting up again. You can catch a bee returning to the hive and find whether it is carrying in nectar or only water.

2. In some places dandelions are so scarce as to be of no great importance. In others they are plenty and of great value.



Send Questions either to the office of the American Bee Journal, or to  
Dr. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.  
Dr. Miller does not answer Questions by mail.

## Something Historical About Bees

1. Mr. Leonard Chester and Rev. Henry Smith died in 1648. In the inventory of their estates bees were valued at £8 in each case. James Boosey died in 1650. In the inventory of his estate 11 "skippis" of bees were valued at £9. Comparative: Horses £12 each, and cows £5 each.

2. Were bees always here, or were they imported? If so, when? CONNECTICUT.

ANSWERS.—1. Just as you state it, one cannot tell for certain whether it took 11 "skippis" to be worth  $\frac{3}{4}$  as much as a horse, or only 1 "skipp." If the former, bees were not rated very differently from today; if the latter, bees were away up.

2. In the latest edition of Dadant's Langstroth, page 289, is the following:

"Thomas Jefferson, in his 'Notes on Virginia,' says: 'The honey-bee is not a native of our country. The Indians concur with us in the tradition that it was brought from Europe; but when, and by whom, we know not. The bees have generally extended themselves into the country, a little in advance of the white settlers. The Indians, therefore, call them the white man's fly.'

"According to the quotations of the American Bee Journal common bees were imported into Florida by the Spaniards previous to 1763, for they were first noticed in west Florida in that year. They appeared in Kentucky in 1780, in New York in 1793, and west of the Mississippi in 1797." In 1857 they were taken to California.

So you see that the account you give antedates anything given in the book quoted by more than a century, making it a very interesting item.

## Driving Out Drones — Preventing Swarming—Hive-Ventilation, Etc.

1. I want to ask a few simple questions and give a few points for beginners to observe. First, when the drones are being run out and killed off in early spring, it is conclusive evidence of a honey-dearth, or

continued bad weather, and it is well to begin feeding at once.

2. I think there are only 2 points to be observed to prevent swarming, viz., plenty of laying space for the queen by giving empty combs when needed, and super-room for the bees to prevent crowding.

3. As we are not prohibited from reading the "Sisters' Department," I am inclined to disagree with Miss Wilson in regard to ventilation by opening the back door at the top of the brood-nest (pages 451-2), for in a climate of hot days and cool nights the brood is liable to take a bad cold with the back door left open over night.

4. Why will a densely populated colony with a young queen in the cell, on being given 2 frames, with  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch starter, refuse to draw out the foundation, but proceed to build drone-comb in a frame with a starter?

5. When the bees are vigorously fanning with their heads to the entrance, which is accomplished, cool air driven in or hot air being drawn out?

I will offer a possible solution to "Iowa," page 469. Perhaps something in the wood the shingles are composed of attractive to the bees causes them to work through the cracks made by shrinkage. We will not credit the idea of their going down the chimney to get into the house unless some old comb should have been thrown into the fireplace with little fire.

ARKANSAS.

ANSWERS.—1. Yes, if drones are driven out any time before the close of the season it is well to inquire whether stores are short. Sometimes, however, drones are driven out when plenty of honey is in the hive and the season is not yet far advanced, especially if the bees have reared a new queen.

4. Yes, crowding either the brood or the surplus apartment is generally agreed to favor swarming, but most bee-keepers would at least add to this the matter of heat and lack of ventilation.

5. If you know of any case where harm was done by doing as directed, I wish you would give particulars. The instructions were given for extracted honey, and we don't run for extracted honey here, but in hundreds and hundreds of cases we have given such ventilation to colonies working



# American Bee Journal

I understand they were introduced into this locality about 60 years ago, none having been here before that time. When I first came here they were hardly worth considering; now I prize them highly. True, I have never obtained surplus from them, but they are of the greatest value in being turned into brood, and they come just at the right time for that. If I could have in July or August the 2 weeks or more of dandelion bloom I had this year in its usual time, I think I could have a lot of surplus from it. But at the time dandelion blooms there are not enough field-bees to do more than supply the enormous amount used in brood-rearing.

It may be that in some places strawberries yield well, but they are very plentiful here and I have seldom seen bees on them.

(P. S.—My brother-in-law says that on this very day bees are as thick on them as he ever saw them on buckwheat.)

3. So far as yet known, Italians probably have the general preference.

4. I am afraid it may be because they are short of stores. Possibly, however, it's only drone-brood, which they sometimes carry out when a spell of unfavorable weather comes, even when there is plenty of honey in the hive.

5. I don't think there are two separate classes. A fielder may gather nectar and no pollen; she may gather both; perhaps only pollen; yet the same bee never gathers both on the same trip. A bee may change its work on the same day, for sometimes you will see a large proportion of the bees carrying pollen in the morning and very few carrying pollen in the afternoon.

6. Looks pretty sure they're gathering, but I couldn't guess from what.

## Numbering Colonies—Sweet Clover Honey—Sowing Sweet Clover—Carniolans or Italians?

What is your system of hive numbering and queen record? Today No. 5 swarmed (golden Italian queen), was hived on the old stand; now, should the old hive's number be taken off and placed on the new swarm and a new number given the old colony?

2. In Gleanings you spoke of your full combs of sweet clover honey and said you counted it as just so many pounds of white clover honey this season. Why not use dummies when the honey-flow opens, or better still, why not use the Danzenbaker hive and have all frames full of brood at the beginning of the honey-flow?

3. Would not that sweet clover honey have sold for as much money as white clover honey had they been extracted?

4. When is the best time to sow sweet clover seed to get a stand?

5. Which are the best workers, Carniolans or Italians?

6. Which are best for extracted honey? MISSOURI.

ANSWERS.—1. A small square of tin is painted white, and on this is painted in black the number. This tag is fastened on the hive by a small wire nail. The numbers run in numerical order in the rows, the same number always being on the same stand; so if No. 5 is moved to a new stand its number is changed, and any hive put in place of No. 5 will receive the tag taken from No. 5. Each year a new record book is used, the same being about 12 by 5 or 6 inches, 3 colonies to the page.

2. You must have misunderstood what I said, for I do not think I ever had a comb filled with sweet-clover honey. I have had honey that I thought was flavored with sweet clover, giving to white clover something of a vanilla flavor, which I think an improvement. I had a goodly number of frames filled with fall honey last fall, which I have been giving to the bees this year. I mentioned those combs, but I didn't say they were of sweet clover; but I said something about yellow sweet clover in another place that perhaps you have mixed up with these combs of fall honey. I said I had never valued specially the fact that yellow sweet clover was 2 to 4 weeks earlier than white sweet clover, because that made it come right in the time of white clover; but I had changed my mind about it, for last year white clover didn't yield any honey, and if I had had a lot of yellow sweet clover yielding early it would

have been a boon. But I didn't have the yellow sweet clover.

You ask why I don't use dummies when the honey-flow opens. For more than one reason, but one will be enough. I suspect that you imagine that at the beginning of the honey-flow one or more empty frames are in the hive and that if I take out those empty frames and put dummies in place the honey that would go into the empty frames will be forced into the sections. That is an erroneous supposition. If I took out frames to replace with dummies I would have to take out frames of brood, or else take out the outside frame largely filled with pollen. Each frame, however, has more or less empty cells around the border, generally, when the flow begins, and if, a little before this time, I put in the center of the hive a solid frame of honey, the bees will empty this honey to replace it with brood, and this honey will be used to fill any vacant cells around the borders.

I don't quite understand your remark about using the Danzenbaker hive to get all frames full of brood. No hive fills frames with brood, and in this respect the Danzenbaker has no advantage over the dovetailed.

3. I don't know; but then you remember I had no sweet-clover honey, unless it was mixed with other honey. If I had extracted those combs I'm sure the honey would not have sold for as much as white-clover extracted, much less for as much as the white-clover sections that it may afford.

4. Either in spring or fall. Early spring is preferable.

5. Probably there isn't much difference. The Carniolans have the reputation of being the best swarms.

6. They are probably much alike.



## First White Clover Bloom.

Bees are swarming in this locality and new swarms starting. I saw white clover in bloom today for the first time this season. P. F. CONKLIN.

Elmira, N. Y., June 14.

## Heavy Loss of Bees.

There is a very heavy loss of bees in this county this year, some losing 75 per cent. I have lost fifty colonies, and what are left are very weak and will need most of the season to build up. Edw. McCox.

Lima, N. Y., June 10.

## Vine-Maple Honey.

I extracted 4½ gallons of honey last week from one colony. It was all maple, or, I should have said, vine-maple, of a light amber color. Its flavor is excellent. I had 50 colonies spring count.

CHAS. W. HOPSECKER.

Clear Lake, Wash., June 4.

## Hope for Honey Yet.

On account of an accident to my left foot I lost half of my bees this spring. Then, the spring was very late and cold, so that the bees could not fly; still I have twelve colonies left, and yesterday I had the first swarm. If the weather now stays warm there is hope for some honey yet.

PETER WEHMEYER.

Rosebud, Mo., June 14.

## Unusual Weather.

We are having very unusual weather here that takes all the enthusiasm out of one. I never have seen a season like it in my 30 years' experience. I will have some honey, but the weather conditions keep one in doubt. I am thinking of tiering up a few colonies today, but to what purpose I can't tell.

A. H. NOBLE, SR.

Nashville, Tenn., June 7.

## Bees in Fine Shape.

I placed 131 colonies in the cellar last fall, and set out 131 this spring, all in fine shape as far as I could see, but since then I have found 3 without queens. I united them with the poorest colonies I could find in the yard. The best I ever did before was to winter 90 per cent. I have made no changes from former winters, and at this writing my bees are very strong, but it has been one of the worst springs I ever knew. Only about 1 day in 5 could bees fly since April came in, and I have made up my mind it is better, as they do not get lost if they cannot leave the hive. I never had them build up so fast. I have had several swarms and I have to give each one frame of honey or they must die, as I have had them hived 10 days and they have not been out of the hive except a part of 3 days.

I see they are killing off the drones—not a good sign, but I have seen it before and it turned out to be a good season. I always have a few swarms issue before I put on the supers, but few after, until late in the season; about the time the honey-flow stops. Then sometimes a few will swarm. I must stop now and go out into the yard for the sun begins to put forth his rays, and I want to look at it once more.

C. M. LINCOLN.

West Rupert, Vt., June 10.

## Bees in Fine Shape.

My bees are in fine shape in spite of the cold, backward spring. My first swarm issued yesterday; a rousing one, too. I have 34 colonies—did not lose one in wintering.

The American Bee Journal is one of the things I don't feel able to do without.

S. E. SCOFIELD.

Enosburg Falls, Vt., June 12.

## Short Honey Crop Expected.

Our bees have had a hard struggle to get up to the month of June, but are doing fairly well now. Most of the bee-keepers in this part of the country have lost a great many bees on account of the late, cool spring. There seemed to be nothing for them. I have had 18 swarms; they build my apiary up to 60 colonies. I think the prospect bids fair for a short honey crop.

J. D. PASLAY.

Groesbeck, Tex., June 2.

## Backward Spring.

My bees came out of winter quarters without the loss of any. The spring has been backward. I hear my neighbors say that they have spring dwindling. I saved my bees by feeding and exchanging combs to equalize them. I think we have a good show for clover honey if the weather is favorable.

Success to the "Old Reliable."

JOHN CLINE.

Darlington, Wis., June 6.

## Black vs. Yellow Queens.

It seems that the black or hybrid queens have more instinct for self-preservation than the yellow races of bees. The little black queens are up to all sorts of dodges to keep out of sight. One is, to fly as soon as the comb is lifted out and be gone several minutes. I have had 2 such queens. To catch such, move her home, and put another colony where her home was; on her return she is balled and killed. Or you can hunt her out by the ducking process.

ALVAH REYNOLDS.

Altona, Ill., June 6.

## Plain vs. Self-Spacing Frames.

In reply to the editorial of June 6, and in behalf of Mr. Hutchinson, I will give the bee-men a "piece of my mind." For rapid handling and extracting, a self-spacing frame is not "in it" with the plain all-wood frame, or one made on that pattern.

I have run 4 apiaries with a total of 500 colonies, almost entirely for extracted honey, and my points are as follows:

1. I want a frame that is light, and not to exceed ¾ inches in thickness, so that when uncapping the comb can be trimmed to a level with the frame, thus permitting

# American Bee Journal

faster work, increasing the wax-production, making a comb that the honey can be extracted from more readily, and causing the bees to build out a cell of new wax, and thus somewhat improving the quality of the honey.

The dark combs do not impair the grade of honey very much, and, when used this way, very nearly equal new-drawn combs. If one expects to uncap 250 to 350 gallons of good, ripe honey in a day's time, he will have no time to waste in looking out for spacing devices of any kind, or sharpening uncapping knives. That is the quantity I generally figure for a day's run with a man and boy in the yard to do the "robbing," a man to run a 4-frame extractor, and a man to uncap and look after the combs in the house.

2. I want all the frames in the hive alike, so that I can change them to any part and use them for any purpose, and I have never had a man in the yard for any length of time that favored a spacing device of any kind.

As for their advantage, a beginner or a man working for comb honey might like the self-spacing frame, but I use the plain for both comb and extracted honey, and have never suffered any loss from moving. I have hauled bees around considerably, and do not fasten the frames, as the bees will cluster tight enough to hold them as soon as the jar of the wagon commences.

Of course this is a matter of "every man to his liking," but a good way to get at the practicability of the two kinds of frames would be to get the statements of about 100 bee-keepers who handle 300 or more colonies of bees, and see if the most use plain or self-spacing frames.

EDWARD G. BROWN.

Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, June 10.

## Favorable Conditions for Bees.

Conditions are favorable here for a great honey-flow if it ever stops raining, as caltapa is just beginning to bloom and persimmon will soon come along. Besides, there is clover in bloom everywhere and it is yielding very well this year. There are also great patches of yellow sweet clover scattered here and there that are blooming, and the white sweet clover is showing in considerable quantities, which promises to furnish enough to keep up brood-rearing after the early flow is gone, so that our bees can take full advantage of our fall flow, which is the greatest of our flows here. But with the bees it has been different, as hundreds of colonies have been lost, especially among the farmers, many of whom lost every colony they had. But with the professional bee-keeper it is also different. They lost few by starvation this winter, as they had hives that they could get among the bees to see the exact condition and to feed if necessary.

Such, in brief, is the condition here—plenty of flowers and yielding well, but bees scarce through the ravages of the terrible winter and spring. I lost 6 colonies by thieves that got into my out-yard, and 1 by starvation. Three were queenless and I united them with weak colonies to help them along.

JULIUS HAPPEL.

Evansville, Ind., June 5.



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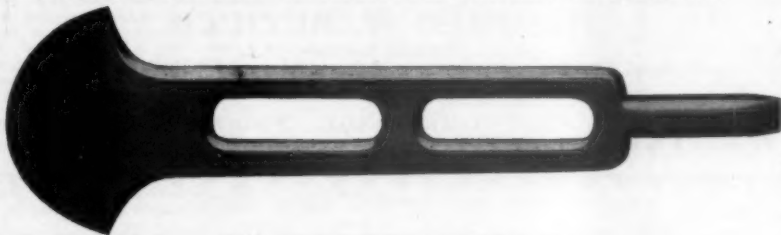
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Tested Queens .... \$1.00 each; \$10.00 per doz.  
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### WE SELL ROOT'S GOODS IN MICHIGAN

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Golden or Leather Colored. One colony of this strain produced 280 fancy sections in one season. Order now for delivery in season. Untested Queen, 1.00; six, \$5.00. Tested, \$1.50 ap. Correspondence solicited.

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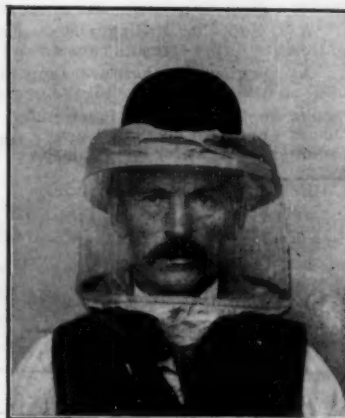
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DENVER, June 7, 1907.

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Yours very truly, FRANK RAUCHFUSS,  
Mgr. The Colorado Honey-Producers' Ass'n.

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Unless you enjoy being stung while handling bees, send for this veil to-day.

Send for our catalog, free.

THE FRED W. MUTH CO.

51 Walnut Street, The Busy Bee-Men, CINCINNATI, OHIO

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## Honey and Beeswax

CHICAGO, June 8.—Not any of the honey yield of 1907 has appeared on this market, and with the choice white grades of last year's comb being exhausted there is practically nothing to base values on other than that of history, for there is always a limited demand for honey. New white comb of good flavor would sell at 16c; no demand for other grades. Extracted is also exhausted of best grade. Beeswax is selling on arrival at 32c. **R. A. BURNETT & CO.**

CINCINNATI, May 23.—There is no material change in the honey market at this writing. Extracted honey is not moving so rapidly as it could, owing to the cool weather. We quote amber in barrels at 5½¢@6½¢; fancy table honey in crates of two 60-pound cans at 8¢@9c. For choice, yellow beeswax, free from dirt, we are paying 31c cash, delivered here.

**THE FRED W. MUTH CO.**

PHILADELPHIA, June 10.—The honey market has been quite brisk for this time of the year. A number of odd lots have been cleaned out of the market. We quote: Fancy comb, 14¢@15c; No. 1, 13¢@14c; amber, 12¢@13c. Fancy white extracted, 7¢@8c; light amber, 6¢@7c. Beeswax firm, 32c.

We are producers of honey and do not handle on commission. **WM. A. SELSER.**

NEW YORK, May 21.—White comb honey is practically cleaned up, and there is very little demand at this time. There is some dark and mixed comb on the market, but no demand to speak of, and some of this will have to be carried over until next season, or sold at a sacrifice. Therefore we cannot encourage shipments of off-grades or dark honey at this time. Extracted honey is in fair demand and prices are ruling firm. There is very little new crop arriving as yet from the South, and while it is rather early, we doubt whether we will have any large shipments from the Southern States this season, as we fear there will be a short crop, judging from the reports we are receiving. There is quite a good stock of last year's crop still on the market, sufficient to last until the new crop from various states arrives. There is no change in price as to extracted honey since our last. Beeswax firm and likely to remain so for the next 2 months.

**HILDRETH & SEGELKEN.**

## Headquarters for Bee-Supplies

Complete stock for 1907 now on hand.

**FREIGHT-RATES FROM CINCINNATI**

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For prices, refer to my catalog, page 29.

**C. H. W. WEBER**

CINCINNATI  
OHIO

Office and Salesrooms, 2146-48 Central Ave. Warehouses, Freeman and Central Aves.

INDIANAPOLIS, June 19.—There is a strong demand for fancy white comb and best grades of extracted honey, but the market is practically bare at this writing. Evidently a new scale of prices will be established on arrival of new crop. Beeswax is plentiful and in fair demand, selling here at 35¢ per 100 pounds.  
**WALTER S. FOUDEK.**

TOLEDO, May 3.—There is very little demand for comb honey as is usually the case at this season of the year. Fancy white would bring in a retail way 16¢@17c; No. 1, 15¢@16c, with no demand for dark honey. Extracted is very scarce and none being offered for sale. Beeswax is bringing 28c.

**THE GRIGGS BROS. & NICHOLS CO.**

KANSAS CITY, June 1.—The honey market is almost bare of comb honey, and demand good; receipts of extracted are light, and demand light; we quote: No. 1 white comb, 24-section cases, \$3.25; No. 2, white and amber, \$2.50@2.75. Extracted, white, per pound, 8c; amber, 7¢@7½c. Beeswax, 30c.

**C. C. CLEMONS & CO.**

DENVER, Feb. 14.—Producers in this State are practically closed out of both comb and extracted honey. We have not sufficient good comb honey to supply our local trade, but have a good supply of white extracted of excellent quality. We quote strictly No. 1 white comb honey, per case of 24 sections, at \$3.20; No. 1, light amber, \$3; and good No. 2, \$2.80. White extracted, 8¢@8½c per pound; light amber, 7¢@8c. Clean, yellow beeswax, 27¢@28c, delivered here.

**THE COLO. HONEY-PRODUCERS' ASSN.**

CINCINNATI, June 18.—The market on fancy white comb is entirely bare. No. 2 is selling slowly at 12c. Extracted, light amber, brings 5¢@6c. Beeswax is selling here at 32¢ per 100 pounds.

**C. H. W. WEBER.**

## FOR SALE

1000 sixty-pound CANS. A No. 1 condition, packed two in a case. Cases also first-class. Will sell them cheap.

**Michigan White Clover Honey Co.**

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Please mention the Bee Journal.

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**SECTIONS** are made of the basswood timber, grown here in the basswood belt of Wisconsin.

**DOVETAILED HIVES**, of lumber almost clear, made accurate and smooth.

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MICHIGAN—Lungst & Koenig, 127 South 13th St., Saginaw, E. S.  
S. D. Buell, Union City.

NEBRASKA—Collier Bee-Supply Co., Fairbury.

CANADA—N. H. Smith, Tilbury, Ont.

ARIZONA—H. W. Ryder, Phoenix.

MINNESOTA—Northwestern Bee-Supply Co., Harmony.

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